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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

APRIL | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | 87-4

The number of unemployed decreased by 1,610 from mid-March to mid-April as the unemployment rate dropped from 2.6 to 2.3 percent. A year ago the rate was 2.9 percent. As a note of interest, the 2.3 percent rate is the lowest rate New Hampshire has recorded since 1976 when the current methodology was adopted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A 2.3 rate was also achieved in September and October 1986. New Hampshire continues to lead the nation with the lowest unemployment rate as last month's 2.6 rate marked the twentieth consecutive month of this occurrence. It is expected that our current 2.3 percent unemployment rate will continue this situation. Nationally the rates were 6.2 percent in April, 6.9 percent in March, and 7.0 percent a year ago.

The number of unemployed and rate of unemployment for each area are as follows: Berlin LMA 990 (4.0 percent), Claremont LMA 490 (1.3), Concord LMA 830 (1.6), Keene LMA 540 (1.4), Laconia LMA 960 (2.0), Littleton LMA 730 (4.4), Manchester MSA 1,580 (1.8), Nashua PMSA 2,080 (2.2), Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester N.H. ME. MSA 2,740 (2.2), Salem (N.H. Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill MA. PMSA) 1,920 (3.9), Unattached Area 600 (3.1), and the town of Pelham (N.H. Portion of the Lowell MA. PMSA), 230 (4.4 percent).

The Littleton and Berlin labor market areas experienced unemployment increases of 370 and 270 respectively. Completion of skiing operations, reduced logging operations because of the mud season, and termination of other seasonal activities resulted in higher unemployment levels in these areas. Employment gains occurred primarily in the construction and trade industries. Machinery, our largest manufacturing industry, experienced a gain of 150 workers in April as did the paper and allied products industry. The average weekly manufacturing wage for April was $374.85 which represented average weekly hours worked of 40.7 at an average hourly rate of $9.21. The average hourly rate for durables was $9.36 and for nondurables it was $8.87. While footwear was the lowest paid manufacturing industry at an average hourly rate of $5.47 for April, food and kindred products was the highest at an average hourly rate of $10.95. Apparel represented the lowest number of average weekly hours worked in manufacturing with 34.1 hours, and paper producers represented the highest with 46.8. While nonmanufacturing industries represented 76.3 percent of all employment in April, trade accounted for 32.7 percent of this and services 28.7 percent.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 2,950 from March as manufacturing decreased by 500 workers while nonmanufacturing increased by 3,450. Compared to the year ago level, nonagricultural employment is up 16,500 workers.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Month	Year	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Month	Year	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	572,820	566,940	553,310	5,880	19,510	85,410	84,710	82,720	700	2,690	94,400	93,430	90,310	970	4,090
2. Unemployment	13,390	15,000	15,970	-1,610	-2,580	1,580	1,900	1,910	-320	-330	2,080	2,430	2,550	-350	-470
Percent of labor force	2.3	2.6	2.9	xxx	xxx	1.8	2.2	2.3	xxx	xxx	2.2	2.6	2.8	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	559,430	551,940	537,340	7,490	22,090	83,830	82,810	80,810	1,020	3,020	92,320	91,000	87,760	1,320	4,560
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	495,400	492,450	478,900	2,950	16,500	85,200	85,050	82,400	150	2,800	89,100	88,650	85,850	450	3,250
Manufacturing	117,150	117,650	118,800	-500	-1,650	13,100	13,350	14,100	-250	1,000	35,300	35,250	35,650	50	-350
Durable goods	81,450	81,500	82,400	-50	-950	8,300	8,400	8,600	-100	-300	29,150	29,050	29,650	100	-500
Lumber & wood prods.	6,000	6,050	5,750	-50	250										
Furniture & fixtures	1,600	1,650	1,500	-50	100										
Stone & clay prods.	3,300	3,250	3,200	50	100										
Primary metal prods.	4,450	4,350	4,250	100	200										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,650	6,700	6,950	-50	-300										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	24,850	24,700	25,450	150	-600										
Electrical prods.	23,300	23,500	23,950	-200	-650	4,750	4,700	5,100	0	-350	22,250	22,100	22,650	150	-400
Miscellaneous prods.	1,950	1,950	2,100	0	-150										
Other durables	9,350	9,350	9,250	0	100	3,550	3,650	3,500	-100	-50	6,900	6,950	7,000	-50	-100
Nondurable goods	35,700	36,150	36,400	-450	-700	4,800	4,900	5,500	-150	-700	6,150	6,200	6,000	-50	150
Food & kindred prods.	3,100	3,200	2,900	-100	200										
Textile mill prods.	3,900	3,900	3,500	0	400	1,300	1,450	1,500	-150	-200					
Apparel	2,000	2,300	2,350	-300	-350										
Paper & allied prods.	5,550	5,400	5,600	150	-50										
Print., pub. & allied	7,450	7,550	7,300	-100	150										
Leather & lea. prods.	4,400	4,450	4,750	-50	-350										
Other nondurables	9,300	9,350	10,000	-50	-700	3,500	3,500	4,000	0	-500					
Nonmanufacturing	378,250	374,800	360,100	3,450	18,150	72,100	71,700	68,300	400	3,800	53,800	53,400	50,200	400	3,600
Construction (inc. min.)	34,950	32,850	34,500	2,100	450	5,900	5,750	5,200	150	700	5,150	5,150	4,500	0	650
Trans., comm. & util.	17,350	17,400	16,050	-50	1,300	4,750	4,800	4,650	-50	100	2,100	2,150	2,100	-50	0
Trade	123,600	122,500	115,350	1,100	8,250	23,000	22,950	21,800	50	1,200	20,450	20,400	18,450	50	2,000
Fin., ins. & real estate	30,200	29,650	27,600	550	2,600	8,500	8,300	7,700	200	800	3,500	3,350	3,050	150	450
Service industry & other	108,400	108,950	103,750	-550	4,650	21,900	21,950	20,950	-50	950	16,450	16,200	15,950	250	500
Government	63,750	63,450	62,850	300	900	8,050	7,950	8,000	100	50	6,150	6,150	6,150	0	0
Federal	8,750	8,500	8,250	250	500	2,700	2,600	2,400	100	300	850	850	750	0	100
State	17,150	17,100	17,150	50	0	850	850	800	0	50	250	250	250	0	0
Local	37,850	37,850	37,450	0	400	4,500	4,500	4,800	0	-300	5,050	5,050	5,150	0	-100

Machinery And Electrical Products Combined

* By place of residence

** By place of establishment

Benchmark

Labor Disputes:

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

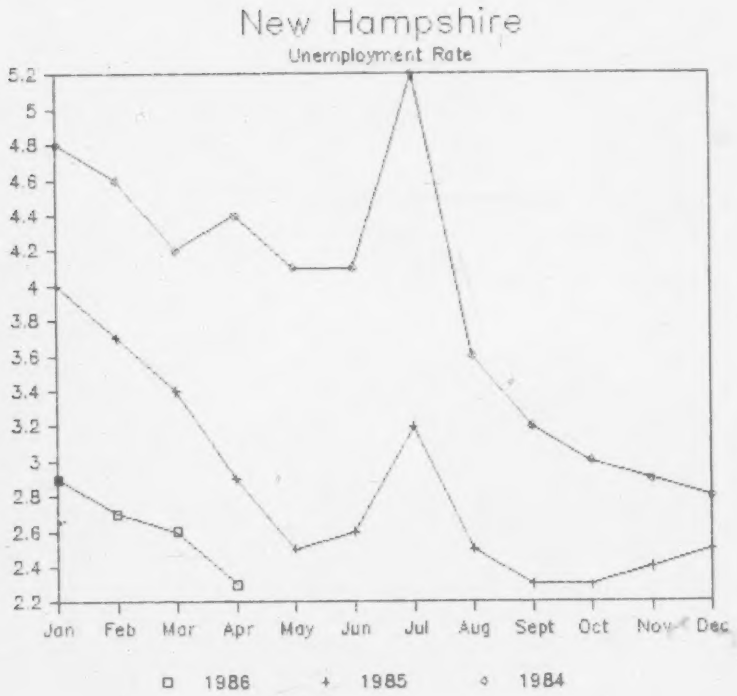
Area	Unemployment*								Civilian Labor Force				
	April 1987 Number	April 1987 Rate	March 1987 Number	March 1987 Rate	April 1986 Number	April 1986 Rate	Numerical Change From Previous Month	Numerical Change From Previous Year	April 1987	March 1987	April 1986	Numerical Change From Previous Month	Numerical Change From Previous Year
UNITED STATES**	7,306	6.2	8,124	6.9	8,115	7.0	-818	809	118,347	118,353	116,316	-6	2,031
NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,390	2.3	15,000	2.6	15,970	2.9	-1,610	-2,580	572,820	566,940	553,310	5,880	19,510
BERLIN LMA	990	4.0	720	2.9	1,310	5.5	270	-320	24,500	25,070	23,850	-570	650
CLAREMONT LMA	490	1.3	790	2.1	670	1.8	-300	-180	38,310	38,070	36,380	240	1,930
CONCORD LMA	830	1.6	1,070	2.1	890	1.8	-240	-60	51,950	51,930	51,160	20	1,790
KEENE LMA	540	1.4	660	1.7	860	2.2	-120	-320	39,650	39,090	38,760	560	890
LACONIA LMA	960	2.0	1,260	2.6	1,060	2.2	-300	-100	49,210	48,420	48,010	790	1,200
LITTLETON LMA	730	4.4	360	2.1	970	6.0	370	-240	16,440	17,000	16,130	-560	310
MANCHESTER MSA	1,580	1.8	1,900	2.2	1,910	2.3	-320	-330	85,410	84,710	82,720	700	2,690
NASHUA PMSA	2,080	2.2	2,430	2.6	2,550	2.8	-350	-470	94,400	93,430	90,310	970	4,090
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	1,920	3.9	1,960	4.1	2,220	4.5	-40	-300	49,350	48,380	48,060	970	290
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	2,740	2.2	3,270	2.6	3,130	2.6	-530	-390	126,760	124,350	121,760	2,410	5,000
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	600	3.1	720	3.9	550	3.0	-120	50	19,420	18,620	18,810	800	610
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	230	4.4	370	7.0	200	3.9	-140	30	5,280	5,320	5,180	-40	100
County													
BELKNAP	520	2.0	690	2.7	600	2.4	-170	-80	25,680	25,310	25,070	370	610
CARROLL	360	2.1	360	2.1	380	2.3	-0	-20	17,110	17,230	16,520	-120	590
CHESHIRE	500	1.4	610	1.7	770	2.2	-110	-270	35,420	34,920	34,610	500	810
COOS	1,020	5.3	680	3.5	1,440	7.7	340	-420	19,090	19,480	18,790	-390	300
GRAFTON	890	2.3	720	1.9	1,090	3.0	170	-200	38,020	38,130	36,670	-110	1,350
HILLSBOROUGH	3,850	2.1	4,660	2.6	4,600	2.7	-810	-750	179,180	177,470	172,540	1,710	6,640
MERRIMACK	930	1.5	1,210	2.0	1,010	1.7	-280	-80	61,800	61,540	59,700	260	2,100
ROCKINGHAM	3,470	2.9	3,790	3.2	4,070	3.5	-320	-600	120,630	118,190	117,200	2,440	3,430
STRAFFORD	1,570	2.8	1,750	3.2	1,620	3.0	-180	-50	56,240	55,050	53,530	1,190	2,710
SULLIVAN	280	1.4	530	2.7	390	2.1	-250	-110	19,650	19,620	18,680	30	970

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1987	1986	1985	1984
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - April	332.3			
Percent change from year ago	3.7			
Year average		323.4	318.5	307.6
Percent increase each year		1.5	3.5	3.4
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - April	337.7			
Percent change from year ago	3.8			
Year average		328.4	322.2	311.1
Percent increase each year		1.9	3.6	4.3

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester Civilian Labor Force,
Total Employment and Unemployment
as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	April 1987	March 1987	April 1986	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	126,750	124,350	121,760	2,400	4,990
Unemployment	2,740	3,270	3,130	-530	-390
Percent of Labor Force	2.2	2.6	2.6	xxx	xxx
Employment Total	124,010	121,080	118,630	2,930	5,380
Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary	105,600	103,550	102,050	2,050	3,550
Manufacturing	20,000	20,100	20,950	-100	-950
Durable Goods	12,050	12,100	12,650	-50	-600
Nondurable Goods	7,950	8,000	8,300	-50	-350
Nonmanufacturing	85,600	83,450	81,100	2,150	4,500
Construction (inc. mining)	5,050	4,600	5,000	450	50
Trans., Commun. & Utilities	2,800	2,650	2,650	150	150
Trade	27,550	26,900	25,300	650	2,250
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	6,200	6,100	5,550	100	650
Services	19,100	18,300	17,750	800	1,350
Government	24,900	24,900	24,850	0	50
Federal	10,600	10,500	10,950	100	-350
State	5,400	5,400	5,350	0	50
Local	8,900	9,000	8,550	-100	-350

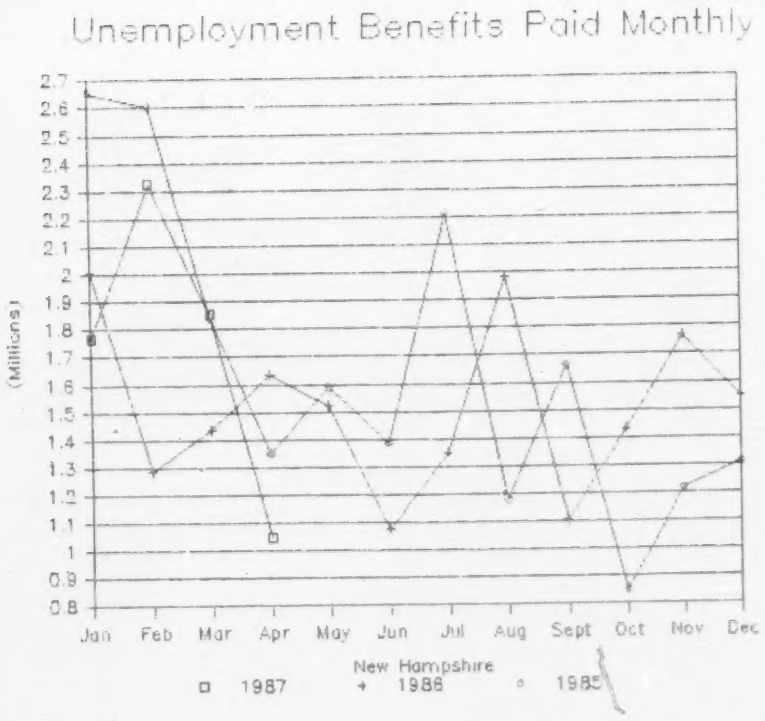
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986
Manufacturing	$349.84	$372.04	$361.97	39.8	41.2	40.9	8.79	9.03	8.85
Durable Goods	381.51	408.31	411.09	41.2	42.4	42.6	9.26	9.63	9.65
Nondurable - Goods	304.29	321.53	292.22	37.8	39.5	38.5	8.05	8.14	7.59

Sample Percent of Production Workers	Total Production Workers	Firms Reporting
43%	13,300	39

Weekly Claims Filed During April
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	3,185	11,154	22	49	9	15	19	42	11	18
Berlin	253	1,031	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Claremont	121	347	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Concord	146	665	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Conway	93	337	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Dover	477	1,587	1	5	3	1	7	6	4	9
Keene	126	358	0	0	1	5	2	7	0	0
Laconia	194	895	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Lebanon	27	124	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Littleton	204	785	13	22	2	2	0	0	0	0
Manchester	586	1,692	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	2
Nashua	269	849	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Portsmouth	201	1,023	2	5	1	3	5	17	3	4
Salem	87	318	0	5	1	0	2	6	0	0
Liable Interstate	401	1,143	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $118.86



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$144,414,097.04

Net contributions received during month:

6,290,479.49

Net benefits paid during month:

1,050,024.56

Interest Received:

0

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986
All manufacturing	$374.85	$377.48	$354.38	40.7	41.3	40.5	$9.21	$9.14	$8.75
Durable goods	388.44	393.64	365.49	41.5	42.1	40.7	9.36	9.35	8.98
Lumber & wood prods.	307.23	306.15	262.57	38.5	39.1	38.5	7.98	7.83	6.82
Furniture & fixtures	303.03	291.79	283.27	39.0	38.7	40.7	7.77	7.54	6.96
Stone & clay prods.	375.36	392.85	350.99	42.8	45.0	41.1	8.77	8.73	8.54
Primary metal prods.	420.23	441.90	410.12	43.1	45.0	42.9	9.75	9.82	9.56
Fab. metal prods.	374.33	387.32	343.73	40.6	42.1	39.6	9.22	9.20	8.68
Mach. (exc. elec.)	418.29	417.75	403.79	43.8	44.3	43.7	9.55	9.43	9.24
Electrical prods.	406.00	411.45	376.94	40.6	40.9	38.9	10.00	10.06	9.69
Miscellaneous prods.	303.36	321.10	266.57	39.5	42.7	38.3	7.68	7.52	9.96
Other durables	382.30	380.82	368.74	41.6	40.6	40.7	9.19	9.38	9.06
Nondurable goods	346.82	344.60	330.40	39.1	39.7	40.0	8.87	8.68	8.26
Food & kindred prods.	413.91	415.52	410.59	37.8	41.1	41.1	10.95	10.11	9.99
Textile mill prods.	315.70	313.94	302.74	41.0	41.2	41.7	7.70	7.62	7.26
Apparel	214.49	209.04	216.67	34.1	33.5	36.6	6.29	6.24	5.92
Paper & allied prods.	485.78	481.04	452.61	46.8	47.3	47.0	10.38	10.17	9.63
Print., pub. & allied	348.58	349.50	336.30	36.5	37.3	38.0	9.55	9.37	8.85
Leather & lea. prods.	205.45	202.54	188.60	35.0	34.8	32.8	5.87	5.82	5.75
Footwear	187.07	182.72	169.38	34.2	33.9	31.6	5.47	5.39	5.36
Other nondurables	368.63	371.45	358.11	39.3	40.2	41.4	9.38	9.24	8.65

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 55%

Total Production Workers: 82,000

Firms Reporting: 356

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986
All manufacturing	$362.18	$366.68	$350.80	39.8	39.9	40.0	$9.10	$9.19	$8.77
Durable goods	376.27	384.46	366.03	40.2	40.3	39.4	9.36	9.54	9.29
Mach. & elec. prods.	382.85	401.99	365.82	40.3	41.7	40.2	9.50	9.64	9.10
Other durables	368.52	363.61	366.34	40.1	38.6	38.4	9.19	9.42	9.54
Nondurable goods	334.62	334.84	326.38	39.0	39.3	40.9	8.58	8.52	7.98
Textiles & apparel	269.68	269.38	302.02	37.3	36.8	41.6	7.23	7.32	7.26
Other nondurables	362.98	366.62	335.76	39.8	40.6	40.6	9.12	9.03	8.27

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 47%

Total Production Workers: 9,850

Firms Reporting: 38

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986
All manufacturing	$475.44	$484.77	$425.25	42.0	42.9	40.5	$11.32	$11.30	$10.50
Durable goods	493.21	504.58	428.49	43.0	43.8	40.5	11.47	11.52	10.58
Mach. & elec. prods.	524.91	534.24	462.58	42.4	42.4	40.4	12.38	12.60	11.45
Other durables	426.68	441.78	346.83	44.4	46.7	40.9	9.61	9.46	8.48
Nondurable goods	406.91	411.44	409.45	38.1	39.6	40.3	10.68	10.39	10.16

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 58%

Total Production Workers: 19,900

Firms Reporting: 71

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending April 30, 1987

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	8,763	3,856	1,275	597	780	328
Prof., Tech. (00-)						
Managerial (19)	1,316	449	163	65	194	57
Clerical (20-24)	1,545	1,313	216	186	102	74
Sales (25-29)	466	222	71	29	43	25
Services (3)	1,340	839	224	141	89	56
Farm (4)	108	23	10	1	9	1
Processing (5)	136	56	20	8	20	9
Machine Trade (6)	648	153	81	32	50	13
Benchwork (7)	757	514	108	75	99	62
Structural (8)	1,563	87	217	12	86	4
Miscellaneous (9)	852	185	158	45	84	25
Unclassified	32	15	7	3	4	2

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	April 1987	March 1987	July 1, 1986 to April 30, 1987
Total applicants for employment	2,052	2,491	25,712
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,634	1,991	21,005
Job openings unfilled end of month	2,654	1,890	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	1,057	346	8,818